



Fly-fishing with a forgotten friend

By Don Oliver
Special to the Drum

Recently the Dallas chapter of Men Who Fly-fish invited me to Texas for two days of fly-fishing.

It was a typical MWFF outing. There was whisky drinking, cigar smoking, Redman chewing, card playing, and some fly-fishing. However, unbeknownst to me, a long-forgotten friend had been invited for the first day of fishing.

Any old geezer who has been fly-fishing before the invention of float tubes, inflatable boats, kayaks, and belly boats knows this friend: the canoe. It's a friend many of us have fished with, from small bass ponds to the lakes of Canada.

When our guide picked us up, I recognized my old friend strapped to the top of the truck. The guide had also brought a kayak and a three-person inflatable boat. My heart skipped a beat at the sight of my old friend, and I immediately began to plot how I could be assigned to fish with it.

As the canoe was being gently lifted off the truck I realized it wasn't an old aluminum model, but a restored wood-and-canvas canoe. It deserved to be treated with the kind of respect a most senior statesman



demands; its bottom was never to touch anything but water.

When my friend was placed in the water, I grabbed a life jacket, a wooden paddle, pointed at one of the other fly-fisherman, said "You're with me," then bullied my way beside my old friend and claimed it for the day. The other fisherman and I gently loaded our gear into the canoe, took our places, and eased away from the dock. Then all the memories of days gone by came flooding back.

Fly-fishing from a canoe is an art. Your casts have to be gentle and deliberate. A cast made with a minimal amount of body movement will keep the canoe stable and the fish ignorant of your presence. At all times, both fisherman have to remain balanced. Standing

up in a canoe, or trying launch a 60-foot double-hauled cast, will most assuredly result in having the big open side facing down.

Paddling also requires a coordinated effort. If the fishermen in the bow and stern are not working as one, they will go nowhere. (Maybe our congressmen and women should learn how to canoe.)

When working together, the paddling effort becomes a beautiful thing to watch. It makes it possible to guide the old friend into countless little coves where big fish are hiding. And the fish will not suspect that the flies being presented to them are coming from two people who have moved silently into the protected shallows.

I truly had forgotten how much fun it is to maneuver and propel my old friend. Sitting there surrounded by wood thwarts and gunwales, with my feet resting on the beautifully finished wood ribs, it was easy to remember fly-fishing days of old.

Fly-fishing that one day with my old compadre reminded me of how much I'd forgotten, and how much I still have to learn about life and fly-fishing.

Never again will I let so much time go by without fly-fishing with, and from, this old friend.

Who am I?

One way, one truth, one life

By Tim Yaw
Nuuciu Bible Baptist Church

Greetings everyone! We have come a long way in our investigation of genuine love, which culminated in the last article when we proved that real love is sacrificial love, which puts others' needs and feelings ahead of our own.

We found this love can only come from God, who orchestrates it through us. But in order for that to happen, we must be in the proper relationship with him. This proper relationship involves recognizing God as the creator of our present existence and facilitator of our eternal existence.

Our investigation has proven that our sinful nature is not compatible with God's holy and righteous nature. Until our nature is reconciled to God's nature, a proper relationship with him is impossible.

We learned that through God's sacrifice of himself in the name of Jesus Christ, our sin debt (separation from God both now and forever) was paid through the heartfelt belief in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. This belief involves admitting to God we are sinners, asking for forgiveness of those sins, and being willing to change by asking God to come into us and be our life, thus making the change we are unable to make under our own power.

By trusting that God will forgive us and being obedient to his will, we are brought into the proper relationship desired by God. This offer of reconciliation is a gift from God and available to every human being.

A statement made by the God-man, Jesus Christ, when he walked the Earth, has created a great controversy in the world today. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except by [through] me."

It is controversial because of the philosophy that is so prevalent today that teaches we all can find our own way to any higher power above us. Our investigation has proven there is only one living God, and he is sovereign over his creation. Since God is

sovereign, he sets the standards for us to follow.

In lieu of simply destroying his created sinful humans, because of his sacrificial love, God chose to save them into a loving relationship with him. God did this by taking human form and coming into his creation.

We have already seen that as this man, Jesus Christ — God was 100 percent man while still being 100 percent God. Through Jesus' atoning action, the standard was set whereby all humans must go through Jesus, by means of faith, to be reconciled with God.

Simply put: One God plus one sacrifice equals one way to God.

What about Jesus' statement of being "the truth"? Talking to God, Jesus said, "Oh righteous Father, the world has not known you: but I have known you and these have known that you have sent me."

God, being sovereign, was his own witness on Earth. He taught and explained himself and his purpose to hundreds of thousands of people, the majority of whom believed his message. Through these ancient witnesses' testimonies and the convincing of God's Holy Spirit, the truth is still proclaimed today.

Because God is holy, he is not able to lie or deceive, because his perfect goodness will not allow him to do so. Manmade philosophies and teachings are aimed at defaming this truth in an effort to essentially put God aside in order to become one's own god.

This is the pride of man we discussed in past articles, and we proved that pride is the root of our sin and our major problem in reconciling with God. Absolute truth is something that is true for all people, in all places, all the time.

Isn't this what God offers to his humankind? God's revelation of himself is the truth simply because of his nature. When we think we are smarter than God, we become fools unto our own destruction!

Simply put: One God plus one way equals one truth.

So since belief in Jesus is the only way to God and only the truth will make you free, isn't it logical that life would come from God through Jesus Christ?

Clarification between existence and life is essential at this point. Humans have an existence but are void of life. We exist in search of something to keep us going: life.

Some get life from a bottle of whiskey, some from illegal drugs, some from a relationship with the opposite sex, some from their occupation, and some from their possessions. All these ways are temporary, and when a person makes something their reason for existence and loses it, they are then dead in their existence and begin searching for new life, or in drastic cases, end their existence.

You see, God puts a void inside of us to fill. Temporary fillings with the things of this world give temporal life and separate us from God. But filling that void with a proper relationship with God gives eternal life.

So now you can see that forming a god to fit your lifestyle is not only no god at all, it is fruitless because you still have to fill that void with worldly things. Why not recognize God for who he is, believe in the truth of Jesus, and let him give himself to you through his Holy Spirit?

This is true life now and forever: God living in you and guiding you by his truth and preparing you to exist with him forever. God should not be part of your life; rather, he should be your life. Stop seeking worldly life and gain eternal life beginning in this existence through Jesus.

Simply put: One God plus one way plus one truth equals one life in God.

I pray that this series of articles has opened your heart and made you ask God to show you more. If you ask him, God will proudly show you more about himself. The Bible tells us that if we seek, we will find God and he will share his love and wisdom with us.

Past investigation has produced evidence God is a personable spirit existing as three persons, all of one holy and righteous nature, in order to interact with us. The three persons of God are God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Investigation of these persons of God will be the focus of the next issue's article.

Change is coming to Tribal Credit

Media release

Southern Ute Tribal Credit Division

A new loan program will replace the existing consumer loan program on April 2.

Other types of loans from Tribal Credit will no longer be available and have been suspended. The Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council may consider expanding the types of loans offered by Tribal Credit in the future, but until that time, the line of credit is the only program available.

The Emergency Loan Program under the Executive Office will be discontinued as of March 16.

For specific questions, call Tribal Credit at 970-563-4744.

The major provisions of the line of credit are as follows:

- Tribal Members 18 and older.
- Maximum amount of \$8,000.
- Payments made from tribal distributions.
- If tribal distributions are already committed, amounts available to loan may be reduced.
- Repayment period will be no more than three years (36 months).
- Draws on the line of credit will be no less than \$1,000 and will not exceed the total credit available.
- Loans may be paid directly to the tribal member.
- Interest rate shall be 5 percent.
- Loan processing fees will be 1 percent of the amount of the loan.
- Approval for loans will be based on the tribal member's ability to pay for the loan from tribal distributions. Information on other income and debt will not be collected nor considered in approving or denying revolving line of credit loans.
- Approvals will be made by Tribal Credit/Finance staff.

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SKY UTE CASINO RESORT

Del Alma to host 3rd annual 'Around the World' children's fair

Media release

Durango Adult Education Center

Del Alma, a program of the Durango Adult Education Center, is pleased to invite children from Kindergarten through fifth grade to take part in the third annual "Around the World" Children's Fair on Saturday, March 31.

The one-day event will expose children to numerous countries around the world and teach them the importance of multicultural education. The fair will feature international games, activities,

crafts, food and entertainment for the entire family. More than 12 different countries will be highlighted in which children can visit with their "passports."

The fair will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the La Plata County Fairgrounds. The cost is \$5 per child.

The Children's Fair is a fundraiser for Del Alma to raise funds for the Alma Afterschool program, Ballet Folklorico de Durango, and the Prejudice Elimination Action Team at Durango High School. The programs are based on the princi-

ples of positive youth development, an approach that supports children and youth to be engaged and reach their full potential.

Del Alma focuses on the development of children's inherent strengths to promote healthy behavioral development. All programs provide the building blocks of development that all children need in order to grow up healthy, caring and responsible.

For more information about Del Alma's services and programs, call 970-385-4354.

March 23 Drum Deadline

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March 19

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Announcements
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March 19

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MAILING ADDRESS & PHYSICAL ADDRESS

Southern Ute Drum • 356 Ouray Drive
PO Box 737 #96 • LCB Building, 2nd Floor
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STAFF EXTENSIONS & EMAIL ADDRESSES

Southern Ute Drum, (sudrum@southern-ute.nsn.us)
Ace Stryker • Editor, ext. 2255 (astryker@southern-ute.nsn.us)
Robert Ortiz • Composition Tech, ext. 2253 (rortiz@southern-ute.nsn.us)
Jeremy Shockley • Reporter/Photographer, ext. 2252 (jshock@southern-ute.nsn.us)
Krista Richards • Admin. Assistant, ext. 2251 (krichards@southern-ute.nsn.us)
Andrea Taylor • T.I.S. Director, ext. 2250 (actaylor@southern-ute.nsn.us)

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